

2021 END OF YEAR REPORT

— PROUDLY SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GEORGIA —



CAROLYN
BOURDEAUX
GEORGIA'S 7TH DISTRICT



DEAR FRIEND,

I have completed my first year as your Representative in the US Congress. Since my swearing in on January 3rd, 2021, we have accomplished a lot for Georgia's 7th District. A few highlights include:

- Creating a **COVID Task Force** to leverage **American Rescue Plan** funds to fight the pandemic and ensure resources reach GA-07;
- Passing my **PPP Extension Act** into law which helped 270,000 Georgia small businesses access \$5 billion;
- Providing key leadership to pass the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** to fight congestion, invest in greenways and transit, and tackle climate change;
- Leading the effort in the US House for expanding Medicaid in Georgia and reducing health care costs in the **Build Back Better Act**;
- Hosting a **Jobs Fair**, a **Congressional Delegation** visit in GA-07 to stand against anti-Asian bigotry, and multiple Cabinet Secretaries like Secretary Pete Buttigieg to highlight key accomplishments in the district.

Over the past year, I've held numerous town halls and Coffees with Carolyn to hear from you directly. And, while I've advocated for many policies like universal pre-K and lower drug prices, I work to ensure that policies are fiscally responsible and to the extent possible, bipartisan. Early on, I joined the Problem Solvers Caucus, a group of 29 Democrats and 29 Republicans who find areas of common ground to advance issues like infrastructure and the January 6th commission.

In the year to come, my key priorities include promoting fair access to the ballot box, finishing the job on Medicaid expansion in Georgia, and ensuring that our community emerges from the pandemic stronger by addressing supply chain concerns, immigration, and workforce development needs.

I hope you enjoy this report which recaps highlights of the past year.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress



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- BY THE NUMBERS -

My offices in Washington D.C. and Lawrenceville, Georgia are here to serve you. Since we opened our doors in January, my team has assisted with a variety of constituent needs informed by calls, events, and town halls. This year, we have accomplished the following:



28,322

Responses to constituents



129

District events and meetings hosted



2,631

Individuals and businesses assisted



\$20.6 M

Dollars secured for constituents & GA07 businesses



10

Bills Introduced

158

Bills Cosponsored



14

Grant support letters written

*2 for the SBA Community Navigator Pilot program, 11 for the State Fiscal Recovery Fund, and 1 for the Al Falah Academy

16

Letters Led



13

In-person and telephone town halls held

Of note: In addition to our telephone town halls, I enjoyed continuing **Coffees with Carolyn**, which provided an opportunity to meet together in person.

- LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES -

In Washington, I bring the needs of GA-07 directly into the legislative process. From speaking at committee hearings to introducing legislation, my advocacy goes well beyond voting on the floor. In fact, as a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus, I helped develop the bipartisan infrastructure bill framework, which delivers nearly \$12 billion to Georgia. Here are a few other efforts I led this Congress:



SIGNED INTO LAW

PPP Extension Act of 2021 (H.R. 1799) - Inspired by a GA-07 small business owner struggling during COVID-19, I introduced this bill extending the Paycheck Protection Program. Since becoming law in March 2021, 270,000 Georgia small businesses have accessed \$5 billion, keeping doors open and employees on payroll.

National and Regional Greenways Act (H.R. 3566) - This bill reduces traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions through the improvement or construction of greenways. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law increased funding for amenities like greenways by 70 percent from \$450M to \$1.44B.



PASSED THE HOUSE

Medicaid Saves Lives Act (H.R. 4595) - Included in the Build Back Better Act, this bill provides health care to +4M Americans in the 12 states that have refused to expand Medicaid, including Georgia.

H.Res. 275 - Passed the House and Senate, this resolution condemns the horrific shootings on March 16, 2021 in Atlanta, Georgia and reaffirms Congress' commitment to combating hate and violence against the Asian-American community.

Solar Use Network (SUN) Act (H.R. 3690) - Included in the INVEST Act, this bill allows for the more effective use of unused space on the interstate to support renewable energy projects.

Build Up the Suburbs Act (H.R. 3334) - Included in the INVEST Act, this bill expands funding eligibility for flexible transit options like including Bus Rapid Transit and Express Lane Transit, better connecting the Atlanta metro area.

Wastewater Infrastructure Modernization Act (H.R. 3691) - Building off of Gwinnett County's clean water technology efforts, this bill creates an EPA grant program permitting public utilities to purchase innovative clean water technology.



AMENDMENTS PASSED BY THE HOUSE

#89 to the For the People Act (H.R. 1) - Combats efforts by the Georgia Legislature to suppress the vote by protecting access to absentee ballots and drop boxes.

#727 to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2021 (H.R. 4350) - Makes it easier for small businesses to do business with the federal government by requiring a report for improving the performance and operation of procurement.

#7 to the IG Empowerment and Independence Act (H.R. 2662) - Ensures Inspectors General are equipped with the tools and training they need to protect taxpayer dollars from individuals with a history of fraud.

- GA-07 FIRST LEGISLATING -

Hearing from constituents and listening to your concerns helps me develop legislation grounded in the needs of our communities. Here are a few initiatives that came out of conversations in GA-07 last year:

REDEVELOPING UNDERUTILIZED SHOPPING MALLS

Gwinnett Place Mall used to be a driver of economic growth, but it now sits mostly vacant. I introduced the [GREATER Revitalization of Shopping Centers Act](#) to incentivize investment in these sites so that they can once again be a source of job creation, housing, and community.



SUPPORTING GA-07 SMALL BUSINESSES

In February, I met with Anthony Rodriguez from the Aurora Theatre where I heard concerns about the approaching Paycheck Protection Program deadline. My team drafted the [PPP Extension Act](#), a bipartisan measure to extend the deadline from March 31 to May 31. The [PPP Extension Act](#) was signed into law by President Biden on March 30, and thanks to this bill, over 270,000 Georgia small businesses were able to access nearly \$5 billion in forgivable PPP loans.



ADDRESSING CONGESTION & MOBILITY NEEDS

Congestion is one of the top barriers to economic development in the community. I have introduced several measures to increase access to transit and unlock economic growth, including:

- [BUS Act](#) - a bill to increase investments in Bus Rapid Transit, Express Lane Transit, and other cost-effective ways to connect our communities.

- [National and Regional Greenways Act](#) - a bill to invest in greenways, like the Chattahoochee River Greenway, which offer eco-friendly bikeways and paths to allow people to move around our community without getting in a car.



FIGHTING FOR SENSIBLE IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Over 25 percent of residents in Georgia's 7th Congressional District are immigrants. I have consistently advocated to clear the employment and family-based visa backlogs at United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) for legislative action – including the [American Dream and Promise Act \(H.R. 6\)](#) – to provide a pathway to citizenship for individuals who have lived here for years.

– BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW –

Our Atlanta region faces daily challenges due to inadequate infrastructure. As a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus, I helped draft the framework for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provides funds to ease congestion, expand public transit, and combat climate change. From connecting communities to preparing our economy for the future, this law means big things for Georgia:

FUNDS SECURED FOR GEORGIA



\$1.4 B

Public transit



\$225 M

Bridges



\$135 M

Electric vehicle
charging



\$8.9 B

Highways and
roads



\$100 M

Broadband



\$619 M

Airports

GAO7 INFRASTRUCTURE TOUR

To discuss exactly how these funds will support GA-07, I took a tour around our district with local leaders.

Stop #1 - Pleasant Hill Rd. and I-85: I visited this diverging diamond interchange to spotlight how funds will connect pedestrians, shops, and more. Modernizing areas like this improve safety, connectivity, and accessibility.



Stop #2 - Sugarloaf Mills Park & Ride: Each day, thousands of people catch buses at this park & ride downtown. Public transit systems like this can be expanded with new funds and offer more transit options while prioritizing sustainability and mobility.



Stop #3 - SK Battery: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides the resources needed to boost green energy jobs like at the SK Battery factory. These new jobs help build an economy that actively combats climate change.



– COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING –

Community project funding allows each Representative in Congress to request funding for up to 10 eligible projects in their district. In a transparent and accountable process, this funding works in a unique way to improve, develop, and grow our community:

COMMUNITY PROJECT REQUESTS

- \$620,000** **Hire Heroes USA, Partnered Career Transition Program (Alpharetta)**
To help prepare our military members, veterans, and military spouses for their unique employment needs.
- \$1,450,000** **Georgia Gwinnett College, STEM Living Learning Communities for Sciences/Information Technology (IT)/STEM Living Learning Communities for Health Sciences (Lawrenceville)**
To prioritize affordable and quality education at the most ethnically diverse southern college.
- \$758,400** **Forsyth County School District, Spark! Igniting Learning, Birth and Beyond (Cumming)**
To help mitigate the impact of external challenges to learning, such as poverty, transit, or language. Spark! provides all around support for young kids and students.
- \$770,000** **Gwinnett County Schools Foundation, Gwinnett County Schools Foundation for Building Babies' Brains – Ready Children Initiative (Suwanee)**
To help prepare our youngest for long-term success and close the readiness gap.
- \$235,000** **Forsyth County Government, Crisis Intervention Team (Cumming)**
To provide training on how to effectively respond to persons affected by a behavioral health crisis and prevent harm or injury during an interaction with a first responder.
- \$90,000** **Forsyth County Government, The Insight Program (Cumming)**
To create more capacity in the community for and better serve at-risk students/youth.
- \$100,000** **Gwinnett County University of Georgia Small Business Development Center, Gwinnett County University of Georgia Small Business Development Center (Lawrenceville)**
To provide low to no-cost business management training and consulting services in the native languages of GA-07 business owners.
- \$310,000** **The Water Tower, The Water Tower (Buford)**
To tackle the most critical challenges in the water sector through research, technology, innovation, workforce development, and community engagement and purchase of advanced laboratory equipment for an Innovation Lab.
- \$495,000** **City of Peachtree Corners, City of Peachtree Corners' Curiosity Lab Mobility Hub (Peachtree Corners)**
To help better the transit options in our community, this project builds a Curiosity Lab Mobility Hub that accommodates for the wabe of solar, electric powered, and other alternative vehicles on the roads.
- \$150,000** **Lawrenceville Housing Authority, Lawrenceville Housing Authority (Lawrenceville)**
To support the Lawrenceville Housing Authority's provide decent, safe, and clean housing to low-income citizens in our community.

- CONSTITUENT SERVICES -

My incredible team in Lawrenceville works with constituents everyday to connect them with resources. In 2021 alone, we helped over 2,600 individuals and businesses and recovered more than \$20 million in assistance. We work hard to make sure the district is taken care of and that constituents can rely on us. Here's a snapshot of our constituent services team's accomplishments:



CASEWORK SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

Small Business Administration - \$20M in funding, which includes EIDL, Targeted Advance, Restaurant Revitalization, and PPP funding.

IRS - \$183,113.27 has gone out through IRS casework, including 2018, 2019, and 2020 tax refunds and recovery assistance payments.

Social Security - \$28,820 recovered.

Rental Assistance - \$94,000 recovered.

Passports - 240 passports received.



GRANT SUPPORT LETTERS

14 written, including for: Gwinnett Clinic, Korean American Chamber of Commerce, Gwinnett Black Chamber of Commerce, Urban League of Greater Atlanta, Forsyth County Government, GUIDE, Corners Outreach for ARPA funding, Gwinnett Black Chamber of Commerce, Al Falah Academy

CONSTITUENT SUCCESS STORIES



**MICHELLE
HUDSON**

The sole financial provider for her family as her husband undergoes medical treatment. Michelle was struggling to keep up with her bills. We helped Michelle attain \$8,000 in rental assistance.



**ERIC
OGORI**

We helped Eric obtain his Employment Authorization Card and driver's license so that he could work and avoid homelessness.



**JOVAN
MERCADO**

A small business owner, Jovan asked for help in getting an SBA loan. We helped him obtain an \$82,000 loan allowing him to pay his employees and keep his business going.



**EDEE'S PLACE
BBQ**

COVID-19 hit this small business hard as it did many others. With my office's help, Edee's Place received \$800,000 in SBA funding to help keep doors open.

- AROUND THE DISTRICT -

It is always a pleasure to meet with constituents out in the district. In partnership with our community, we have held major events and stood up local advisory groups to boost public health, education, equality, and more. Here are a few of these efforts this year:

GA07 Jobs Fair

With over 70 businesses and more than 3,000 jobs available, I hosted our first annual GA-07 Jobs Fair to help connect job seekers with employers. Major employers attended, including our local school systems, county governments, manufacturers, and other industry leaders.



Combatting Asian American Discrimination

After the tragic Atlanta spa shootings, I led a congressional delegation of Members to Atlanta to honor the victims and meet with AAPI community leaders at the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce. Later, I joined the Korean community for a discussion on the need for greater AAPI inclusion in America's history lessons.

Vietnamese Fall Festival

I was honored to speak at the opening ceremony of the annual Vietnamese Fall Festival and uplift the important role of Vietnamese culture in our GA-07 community.

High School Youth Council (HSYC)

HSYC allows local high schoolers to engage with local leaders and learn about different roles in government, perhaps inspiring some youth to pursue careers in public service.

Community Vaccination Drive

In conjunction with my COVID-19 Taskforce, we partnered with Walgreens and a local church for a food and mass vaccination drive for underserved populations in GA-07.

Duluth Pride

In the first annual Duluth Pride Festival, I stood with members of the City Council and the LGBTQ community to celebrate love during Pride Month.

Juneteenth Memorialization Ceremony

I joined our community in four separate Juneteenth ceremonies, including the Gwinnett County Charlie Hale soil collection ceremony in Lawrenceville, which acknowledged local lynchings and called for justice in our neighborhoods.



Peachtree Corners Memorial Day Ceremony

Alongside the Peachtree Corners' Mayor and Veterans Monument Association, I commemorated the veterans lost in service to our great nation.

- COMBATING AAPI INJUSTICES -

An attack on any one individual community is an attack on all communities. I am proud my colleagues in the House and Senate came together to denounce Anti-Asian hate and mourn the eight victims, including six Asian women killed in Atlanta.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

H.Res. 275 - Condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representatives' commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community.

I, with Congresswoman Chu, introduced a bicameral resolution to condemn the horrific shootings that happened in the Atlanta region in March of 2021. The resolution passed both the House and Senate with overwhelming support.

COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act - Signed into law, this bill addresses the rise of hate crimes and violence targeted at Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by expediting the review of such crimes, supporting local law enforcement to respond to these crimes, and coordinating to mitigate racially discriminatory language used to describe the pandemic.

CODEL

In response to the spa shootings in the Atlanta area, I, with Congresswoman Chu, of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus led a congressional delegation (CODEL) to the three Asian-owned spas where a shooter killed eight people on March 16th, six of whom were Asian women. After visiting the sites of the shootings, Members hosted a roundtable discussion with local AAPI leaders at the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.



- VETERANS -

There are approximately 78,000 veterans who call Georgia's 7th District home and we owe them a debt of gratitude. As your Congresswoman, I ensure that those who have served our country get the effective, efficient care they deserve. In 2021, my office closed 75 VA cases and helped many other veterans with housing, health care, and more.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Community Project Funding - I supported Community Project Funding for the Alpharetta-based veterans service organization, [Hire Heroes USA](#), for its successful Partnered Career Transition Program, which provides veterans, service members, and their family members seeking employment with one-on-one, personalized career evaluation, and support. This passed the House in the Labor-Health and Human Services appropriations bill in July 2021.

Cosponsored critical legislation - Cosponsored critical legislation including the [Honoring our PACT Act](#), [Camp Lejeune Justice Act](#), [I am Vanessa Guillén Act](#), a bill awarding posthumous [Congressional Gold Medals](#) to the 13 service members who died during the evacuation in Kabul, Afghanistan, and a resolution naming the Atlanta VA Medical after former Senator Max Cleland.

IN THE COMMUNITY

To best hear from our veterans, I speak to them directly. Some events and discussions from this past year include:

- Military Service Wreath Laying Ceremony.
- Academy Days, to help students enroll in our nation's prestigious service academies.
- Visiting Gwinnett VA Clinic in Lawrenceville to address the health care needs of veterans.
- Meeting the South Gwinnett High School's Junior ROTC program.
- Speaking at Sugar Hill's Veterans Day to honor the courage of our GA-07 veterans.
- Hosting a Veterans Roundtable to discuss how we best address the needs of veterans in the district.

VETERANS TASK FORCE

I formed a Veterans Task Force composed of a diverse group of local veterans, advocates, and elected officials. We are committed to holding quarterly roundtables with the Task Force to hear what's important to service members, veterans, and their families.



- RECOGNITIONS -

While in office, we have recognized outstanding individuals and commemorated award winners in the community, including:

2021 Congressional Art Competition Winner

The 2021 Congressional Art Challenge winner is Kaitlyn Chan, an 11th grader with SKA Academy. Her artwork entitled "Pandemic Unboxed" is now hanging on the wall of the US Capitol.



2021 Chamber of the Year Award Finalist

The Forsyth Chamber of Commerce was a finalist for the 2021 Chamber of the Year Award by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives – a prestigious recognition in an association made up of over 1600 chambers of commerce.



2021 Congressional App Challenge Winner

Krish Saxena from Collins Hill High School won our 2021 Congressional App Challenge, designing the app CovNN which uses machine learning to determine if a person has COVID-19 based on the sound of their cough.



Atlanta Transit Link Funding for Battery-Electric Buses

I wrote a letter on behalf of ATL's application for the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission Vehicle Program, which obtained federal funding for 10 battery-electric buses and 11 chargers to reduce noise, pollution, and create a better customer experience.



Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta's Youth of the Year

Gwinnett County's own Regina Martinez of the A.Worley Brown Boys & Girls Club was chosen as BGCMA's Youth of the Year. She was selected for her hard working attitude and leadership in the community.



- COVID-19 RELIEF -

NAVIGATING OUT OF THE PANDEMIC AS A STRONGER NATION.



Problem: Vaccine hesitancy, remote learning, and misinformation kept communities from making a full health and economic recovery.

Solution: I convened a [COVID-19 Task Force](#) composed of local leaders and public health experts to set up vaccination sites, streamline information, and steer federal resources where needed in Georgia's 7th District.



Problem: American households were left bearing the cost of rent, health care, and other necessary household expenses while under the devastation of the pandemic.

Solution: I helped pass the [American Rescue Plan](#), which provided financial relief through \$1,400 economic stimulus payments, billions in rent and mortgage assistance, an increased [Child Tax Cut](#), and reduced costly health care premiums.



Problem: Numerous small businesses in Georgia and nationwide were struggling to keep their doors open and pay employees due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Solution: I introduced the [PPP Extension Act](#) to extend the Paycheck Protection Program, which became law, allowing over 270,000 Georgia small businesses to access nearly \$5 billion in forgivable loans.



Problem: Processing delays at the Georgia Department of Labor made it difficult for individuals to access much-needed and enhanced unemployment benefits.

Solution: My office helped constituents obtain their benefits and led the charge for a [Department of Labor audit](#) of the Georgia Department of Labor Unemployment Insurance system.



Problem: With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, hate crimes against Asian-Americans became increasingly prevalent.

Solution: I hosted Members of Congress for a powerful tour of the shooting sites in Atlanta followed by a [roundtable of AAPI leaders at the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce](#). I also led the [introduction of a resolution](#) which passed the House and Senate reaffirming Congress' commitment to combating hate and violence directed against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.



Problem: The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll not only on physical health, but also the mental health of millions of Americans.

Solution: I cosponsored the [COVID-19 Mental Health Research Act](#) to research the pandemic's effects on mental health, particularly for health care workers and children.



Problem: Our health care heroes shouldered large amounts of stress and mental health burdens while caring for others.

Solution: I helped pass the [Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act](#) in the House to look out for the well-being of these health care workers and provide resources to prevent suicide and supply mental health research and care.

- VOTING RIGHTS -

PROTECTING THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR DEMOCRACY.



Problem: Georgia is under attack by the recently enacted SB 202 law, which codifies voter suppression tactics threatening fair access to the ballot.

Solution: My first amendment in Congress directly combatted SB 202 by protecting vote-by-mail and ensuring access to secure drop boxes. I am a strong supporter of passing federal legislation to protect the right to vote as an original cosponsor and supporter of the [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act \(H.R. 4\)](#).



Problem: Georgia recently purged nearly half a million people from the voter rolls and misinterpreted exact signature match standards to deny votes.

Solution: I have [testified before the House Judiciary Committee and the Committee on House Administration](#) to educate my colleagues on these efforts and urge that we pass legislation to stop these tactics.



Problem: Confidence in our election security decreased after learning that our 2016 elections were subject to foreign interference and threats have continued since.

Solution: The [For the People Act \(H.R. 1\)](#) boosts cybersecurity measures for our election systems, with a focus on countering foreign interference. It also includes increased funding for the Election Assistance Commission to fund states' replacement of outdated voting machines.



Problem: Presidential abuses of power have become far too common in our executive branch and have left an impact on the perceived strength and confidence of our federal checks and balances system.

Solution: To increase accountability and transparency in our federal government, and to prevent future abuses of Presidential power, I cosponsored and voted for the [Protecting Our Democracy Act](#).



Problem: Voting rights reform encounters challenges in passing the Senate.

Solution: I support the Senate's bipartisan [Freedom to Vote Act](#) because it can pass the Senate and includes protections for voters, including absentee voting, preventing voter intimidation, and making voter registration easier. I also co-sponsored the [Voter Empowerment Act](#) to promote greater access to voter registration and voting for individuals with disabilities.

- HEALTH CARE -

EXPANDING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE & QUALITY HEALTH CARE.



Problem: Georgia is one of 12 states that refused to expand Medicaid, leaving over 600,000 Georgians behind and unable to access health care coverage.

Solution: I introduced the [Medicaid Saves Lives Act](#) and led the fight for its inclusion in the [Build Back Better Act](#) to close the coverage gap and provide 4 million people in non-expansion states like Georgia with health care. This would allow a family of four earning around \$36,000, to access zero-premium health insurance on the exchange.



Problem: The monthly cost of health care is unaffordable due to high insurance premiums.

Solution: The [American Rescue Plan](#) saved Georgians an average of nearly \$600 annually adding up to \$2,400 for a family of four. The bill also allowed an additional 140,000 Georgians to sign up for health coverage on the exchange. I voted for the [Build Back Better Act](#) to extend reduced health insurance premiums for 262,000 Georgians through 2025, which guarantees that no one purchasing their health insurance on the exchange pays more than 8.5% of their income on premiums.



Problem: Prescription drug costs are extraordinarily high compared to global competitors. Medications in the U.S. cost about two and a half times more than the same medications in other Western countries.

Solution: I joined over 20 of my colleagues in encouraging Congressional leadership to ensure that Medicare can negotiate drug prices in the [Build Back Better Act](#), and as a result, the House-passed bill would finally allow this and cap out-of-pocket payments for insulin at \$35 per month.



Problem: Americans do not have the structural or financial support needed to care for aging or disabled loved ones and seniors struggle to afford necessary health services like dental, vision, and hearing benefits.

Solution: I voted to pass the [Build Back Better Act](#), which significantly expands home- and community-based care for our senior citizens and disabled citizens and adds coverage of hearing services for Medicare beneficiaries.

- INFRASTRUCTURE -

CONNECTING AND MODERNIZING OUR COMMUNITIES.



Problem: The metro-Atlanta area is all too familiar with congested commutes to work and traffic delays. Our roadways have too many cars for their current design.

Solution: I helped craft and pass the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**, often known as the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**, to make historic investments in our transportation system, including public transit, and fund local infrastructure projects that will address congestion and better connect our community and economic opportunities.



Problem: There is a lack of federal funding available for Bus Rapid Transit routes, alternative transit options, and highway projects.

Solution: Included in the **INVEST Act**, the bipartisan **Build Up the Suburbs (BUS) Act**, which I introduced, expands funding for flexible transit options like **Bus Rapid Transit** and **Express Lane Transit**.



Problem: The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated delays at our nation's ports of entry where infrastructure was already outdated. Global supply chains are facing disruptions, delays, and shortages while delivering goods.

Solution: I am working to address our nation's supply chain issues through my **Supply CHAIN Act**, which would establish a dedicated office at the Department of Commerce to monitor and map supply chain disruptions. I also helped pass the **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**, which provided \$8 million to the Georgia Ports Authority to address congestion at the Port of Savannah.



Problem: The infrastructure investments needed for long-term economic growth require access to flexible funding options.

Solution: I introduced the **State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act** to make local infrastructure investment projects eligible for payment with unspent COVID-19 relief funding from the **American Rescue Plan**.



Problem: Severe weather, including flooding and storms, caused by climate change is beginning to cripple our nation's older infrastructure.

Solution: The **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** includes tens of billions of dollars to invest in climate resilient physical infrastructure. I also introduced the **SUN Act** to allow for more effective use of interstate right-of-ways to support renewable energy projects.



Problem: The COVID-19 pandemic displayed just how drastic the digital divide is, including in rural parts of Georgia and in low-income areas.

Solution: I am committed to building up our broadband infrastructure in order to get high-speed, low-cost internet access to everyone in our community. The \$100 million in funding for Georgia's broadband from **BIF** will be crucial in increasing broadband reach.

- EDUCATION -

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN GEORGIA.



Problem: Limited access to affordable education discourages and prevents young, qualified students from pursuing higher education.

Solution: I helped pass the [FY 2022 Appropriations Bill](#) that secured \$27.2 billion in federal student aid programs, \$3.43 billion for higher education programs, and an increase in the maximum Pell Grant award.



Problem: Teachers and professors are at risk due to COVID-19, and Georgia has taken steps to weaken protections and refused to implement best safety practices to allow schools to remain open safely.

Solution: As a former professor and the mother of a nine-year-old, I know how important it is to maintain access to in-person learning. I have pushed the state to implement best public health practices and give teachers the tools to protect themselves while maintaining a healthy learning environment. I have also engaged the Secretary of Education to discuss how [federal vaccine requirements can be implemented in higher educational settings](#), like Georgia, where they are currently not applied.



Problem: Higher education institutions are critically underfunded, especially HBCUs, threatening the affordability of college for families and the economic competitiveness of our country.

Solution: I helped pass the [Build Back Better Act](#), which would increase the maximum pell grant by \$550 to \$7,045 per award year and expands eligibility to DACA recipients and makes substantial investments in HBCUs. I am also a cosponsor of the [IGNITE HBCU Excellence Act](#), which invests in infrastructure at HBCUs.



Problem: Out of date infrastructure leaves our public school system in desperate need of upgrades and COVID-19 has upended traditional schooling.

Solution: I supported the [American Rescue Plan](#), which provided nearly \$300 million to schools in GA-07 to help meet the needs of schools amid the COVID-19 pandemic. I also helped craft and pass the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), which included billions for electric school buses and \$100 million in broadband for Georgia.



Problem: Preschool costs \$8,600 annually in the United States, creating a significant financial burden that too many families cannot bear and putting this critical early learning out of reach for many children.

Solution: I helped pass the [Build Back Better Act](#), which provides free preschool for more than 6 million children annually, including 183,000 children in Georgia.





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